

Appl. No. 10/004,131  
Amdt. sent October 9, 2006  
Response to Notice of Allowance August 29, 2006

PATENT

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 5. (Canceled)

1           6.       (Proposed under Rule 312): A storage system comprising:  
2           a set of plural disk drive units;  
3           a plurality of disk array controllers coupled to at least one computer via a  
4 network; and  
5           a first connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and said  
6 disk array controllers, said first connection unit configured such that any of said disk array  
7 controllers can communicate with any of said disk drive units;  
8           a plurality of file servers each comprising a first circuit accepting access from a  
9 computer through a file I/O interface; and  
10           a second connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and  
11 said file serves, said second connection unit configured to ~~directly~~ connect any one of said file  
12 servers to any one of said disk drive units absent the presence of any of said disk controllers.

7.       (Canceled)

1           8.       (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein a  
2 second circuit of each of said disk array controllers is a fibre channel controller.

9 and 10.       (Canceled)

1           11.       (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein  
2 some of said plural disk drive units holds said identification information in a specific storage  
3 area in the disk drive unit.

Appl. No. 10/004,131  
Amdt. sent October 9, 2006  
Response to Notice of Allowance August 29, 2006

PATENT

1                   12.   (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 11 wherein  
2 each of said disk array controllers searches identification information in the specific storage area  
3 in some of said plural disk drive units, and determines which of said plural disk drive units is  
4 accessible based on the detected identification information.

1                   13.   (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 12 further  
2 comprising a disk pool management unit coupled to said plural disk drive units and a  
3 management console, wherein said disk pool management unit stores identification information  
4 identifying at least one of said disk array controllers into the specific storage area in some of said  
5 plural disk drive units based on an input from said management console.

14.   (Canceled)

1                   15.   (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 12 wherein  
2 each of said disk array controllers performs the determination during system initialization.

16.   (Canceled)

1                   17.   (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein  
2 one of said disk array controllers comprises a first circuit accepting access from a computer  
3 through a block I/O interface.